THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE

With which is incorporated

The Shareholder

A Weekly Journal devoted to Finance, Banking, Insurance, Commerce, Industry and Transportation.

J. C. ROSS, M.A., Editor.

Published by The Industrial and Educational Press, Limited

35-45 St. Alexander Street, Montreal. Phone Main 2662

Toronto Office, 44-46 Lombard Street. Phone Main 6764.

Subscription Price, $2.00 per Year. Single Copies 5 cents.

Vol LXXVI. MONTREAL, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1913 No. 49

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THE WEST SHOWS IMPROVEMENT.

Business men, who declare that times are bad in the West, should modify their statements in view of the recent harvest. It is estimated that in the neighborhood of $125,000,000 has already been paid to Western farmers for grain marketed. This in itself is a very large amount of money and will go far towards the payment of mortgages, debts on agricultural machinery and into ordinary channels of trade. In addition, there is more than the usual amount of money being paid for cattle and for the ordinary farm produce. Mixed farming is being practiced to a greater extent than heretofore, and with the removal of the duty on cattle into the United States, the prices being paid for Western Canadian cattle has made a material advance.

In addition to the amount paid for grain and farm produce, it must not be forgotten that many other sources of wealth contribute to the upbuilding of the West. During the past year in the neighborhood of $100,000,000 was expended by the railroads in the construction of new lines, in double tracking, improving terminals and bettering shipping facilities. Still another big source of wealth is found in the incoming immigrants. During the calendar year just closing it is estimated that 130,000 Americans will settle in Western Canada. Each newcomer brings in some thousands of dollars in cash or settlers' effects which means that scores of millions of dollars are brought into the West each year from this source alone. In estimating the purchasing power of the Western Provinces, it must not be forgotten that large sums of money have been secured from British and foreign investors, which is being spent in the construction of new streets the building of side-walks and sewers, the erection of homes and in other ways by which employment is given to the workingman.

At a recent meeting of the Hudson's Bay Company in London the question was asked, "What was the cause of the depression in Canada?" The reply given was "Growing pains." It is probably that Western Canada in common with the rest of Canada and the whole world is suffering from a period of world-wide stringency. Sir George Paish at a meeting in Montreal a week ago, said: "No country in the world has as bright a future as Canada." Mr. H. V. Meredith, president of the Bank of Montreal,